



The Messenger

February/March 2020 | Volume XI, Number 1

All Saints' Church • 51 Concord Street • Peterborough, NH 03458 • allsaintsnh.org

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Greetings,

Recently, a dear friend and lifelong member of the Lutheran church made the decision to begin attending the Episcopal church in her town. The motivation for her change of congregation came not from a dissatisfaction with her denomination, but from a desire to find a church closer to her home, especially during the winter months. Katherine found the liturgy to be “close enough” to her own tradition, and the preaching “quite stimulating”. And, for her, that is high praise indeed.

We visited in January as she convalesced from a knee replacement, and I gave her a belated Christmas gift, the Book of Common Prayer. I was surprised by how excited I was to present it to her, and she was just as excited to receive it. She immediately wanted me to walk her through the pages, and we spent well over an hour as she became acquainted with “my very own Book of Common Prayer”.

I wonder, when was the last time you were lost in the pages of the Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments and Other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church, together with The Psalter or Psalms of David, according to the use of The Episcopal Church, commonly called the BCP? If it has been a while, I urge you to give it a go.

In her pages you will find history and the hopes of a new nation, melded with a desire to preserve the beauty, reverence and piety of Anglican tradition in the worship of God. Notice how the entire arc of our lives in Christ is reflected in and nourished by the Sacraments from birth and Baptism, growth and maturation of faith in Confirmation, renewal of community in the Holy Eucharist, Marriage, Reconciliation of a Penitent, Ministration to the sick and dying, and the celebration of life, in the hope of life eternal, to the Burial rite.

Our BCP is an all-occasion resource for prayer. Did you know that along with the liturgy for the Daily Office – Morning, Noonday, Evening Prayer, and Compline- there are briefer formats for Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families as well? (p. 137-140) Do you have a favorite collect or prayer from the pages of the BCP? It is difficult to choose only one, and thankfully we do not have to. Prayers and thanksgivings abound for every occasion and concern beginning on p. 814.

Have you ever wondered just what it is that we, as the Episcopal Church, profess to believe about human nature, sin and redemption; about God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and our hope as Christians? You can explore those questions in the Catechism, or Outline of the Faith beginning on p. 845.

And this just scratches the surface of the treasure found within her covers. In the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer, and the many other versions found in the Anglican Communion, we are uniquely linked to a wider global community. To quote author Alex Early from his essay, Why I Love the Book of Common Prayer:

“From remote impoverished villages in Africa to cathedrals throughout Europe, saints all over the globe are praying the same prayers and thus, I get the privilege of holding hands with them, reading and praying the same prayers as my brothers and sisters of so many races, nations, and ethnicities. It is beautiful.”

As we follow the light of the Epiphany into the blessed and prayerful time of Lent, perhaps we might look inside this “common” book and discover something in it every day that is new for us. I wish you many treasured moments.

In Christ's Peace,
Sandi

<http://paearly.com/blog/2014/7/8/why-i-love-the-book-of-common-prayer>

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Diocesan Convention Meets in Waterville Valley

The 217th Convention of the Diocese of New Hampshire met all day Saturday, November 9 at the Conference Center located in the heart of Waterville Valley, New Hampshire to conduct the annual business of the diocese. In a glorious setting complete with an early snowfall, all diocesan clergy and lay representatives from all parishes and missions met under the pastoral direction of our bishop to celebrate the Eucharist, share news, consider resolutions and the proposed diocesan budget and to enjoy the company of fellow Episcopalians from the length and breadth of our beautiful state.

It was my privilege to represent All Saints' with other lay representatives Sue Tavernier and Tim Riley, together with our parish clergy. The bishop's sermon during the convention Eucharist centered on the purpose of the Church—to know the joy that comes from abiding in God's love and to share that love with our neighbors.

Following the liturgy the convention elected deputies to the 2021 General Convention in Baltimore. The convention also passed a series of resolutions: to support of the Episcopal Church in Cuba; to explore local racial history and reconciliation in New Hampshire; to support the 50th anniversary observance of Earth Day; and to support efforts by the diocese and parishes to strengthen actions that lead to more responsible care for our common environment. The proposed diocesan budget of \$1,883,590.00 was passed, supporting a host of ministries that affect life in New Hampshire and more widely throughout the Church.

The "business" of convention, important as it is, might be less important than the actual corporate act of gathering together annually in one place to celebrate our life as part of Christ's one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. As Episcopalians our identity reaches beyond our parish to the larger world Christ has called us to serve and love.

David Jette

"God is love and those who abide in love abide in God and God abides in them"

John 4, v. 16

We're told to love our neighbor

Even the one who's a foreigner.

We're told to love each other

And see all as sister or brother.

It will make your journey smoother.

Alma Ruth

February Saints' Days

Raven VanHorn	02/02
Isabelle Caruthers	02/02
Susan Piscopo	02/04
Gerry Hallgrimson	02/12
Gail Anthony	02/12
Cynthia Naudascher	02/13
Stephen Fowle	02/13
David L. Simpson Jr.	02/13
Deborah DeCicco	02/17
Diane Callahan	02/18
Carl Wagner IV	02/19
Tony Anthony	02/20
Michael Heddy	02/22
Elizabeth Smith	02/24
Louise Bryant	02/27

March Saints' Days

Ward Bryant	03/01
Wayne Thomas	03/04
Gloria Schultz	03/04
Paul Mancini	03/05
Graham Parker	03/06
Rod Falby Jr	03/08
Susan Szydlo	03/09
Susan Ernst	03/09
Madelyn Morris	03/11
Ava VanHorn	03/14
Ronia Foecking	03/16
Kathleen Sistare	03/19
Dorothy Wagner	03/19
Emerson Sistare	03/20
Corey Field	03/25
Marc Smith	03/28
Jonathan Sistare	03/28
Lara Niemela	03/28
Ann Falby	03/31
Amy Miner	03/31

From the Vestry

Jack Calhoun, Senior Warden

A snowflake is one of God's most fragile creations; but look what they can do when they stick together!

~Author Unknown

I am drawn to this quote in part because it is the middle of winter, and because in the two years since joining our vestry, I have come to appreciate that this serves as a metaphor for the All Saints' Community in ways that I never understood. Prior to my vestry service, I led the Usher Ministry, and in effect "plugged in" on Sunday when I ushered and when I recruited people and coordinated the service of Usher Ministry members.

In the past two years, my appreciation for the remarkable range of tasks and services that parishioners fulfill quietly and without fanfare in service to God and the All Saints' Community, has grown exponentially. There are countless examples of this loyal service that take place weekly and throughout the year.

Each month parishioners volunteer their time to edit, design, and assemble what you hold in your hands. Others assemble the Sunday bulletins. A group gathers Thursdays to pray in response to parishioner requests. Still others visit the homebound and sick with meals, companionship and the Eucharist. Many gather to knit hats, mittens, and shawls that are given to folks for comfort and warmth. The choir rehearses on Thursday evening. Some gather from time-to-time to plant and maintain our beautiful campus, and others work during the week, or before and after services, to assure the altar and sacraments as well as the church itself are ready and beautiful.

As is the case when countless single snowflakes float down on a nearly windless winter night, we arise in the morning to discover a landscape sheathed in a white blanket. Week after week so many of you, God's fragile creations in our All Saints' Community, are at work ensuring that snow is falling. Know that many of us do notice on Sunday mornings that the "snow" has fallen during the week.

And for all of us . . . that makes all the difference. Thanks be to God!

The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation

Knowledgeable people have suggested for years that I should read Richard Rohr. The time has come.

The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation (2016) is not purely the product of Richard Rohr. As he explains, this seasoned author, teacher, retreat leader, and Franciscan friar was approached by Mike Morell, a much younger communications director, with an offer to recast two of his (Rohr's) conferences into written form. It seems, therefore, that Morell must be responsible for such chapter titles as "Metaphors Be With You!" and "Paradigms Lost".

Though the hands arranging the material into a unified sequence are at times the hands of Morell, the voice is that of Rohr. And a very engaging voice it is. The manner is so relaxed, so accessible, that new ways of thinking can slip by you before you've even noticed. This is a master teacher. He repeats, he sympathizes, he challenges, he piles up imagery, and he makes allusions to Church Fathers, Roethke's poetry, and U2, so offhandedly that you recognise a day or two later an unfamiliar idea implanted in you that you have been chewing on.

Rohr believes that the Blessed Trinity is far more than a theological construct intended to solve the problem of dynamic action in the One God. For him, the Trinity describes the experience of the Church from the time of Christ, and its dynamism is an invitation to us to participate in the life of God. He introduces this possibility by describing the famous icon of Andrei Rublev often called "The Holy Trinity" which shows the three mysterious visitors to Abraham and Sarah seated at a table, in silent communion. Rohr notes that the side of the table toward the viewer is empty, apparently inviting him or her to complete the circle of Divine Life and Love.

And that, for Rohr, is the invitation to living a trinitarian life, a life within the dance of God as community. We are already invited; there is nothing we need to do, or undo, to deserve to be present at that table, to participate in that dance.

Along the way, there is criticism and loving explanation of how churches, and individual believers, have lost their way into guilt, on the one hand, and narcissism, on the other. A Triune God, who knows us better than we know ourselves, awaits a simple, loving, and joyous response. The rest of our lives can be lived within that dance, even as we negotiate our way through a divided, suspicious, needy and unfocused world.

There are, as a bonus, seven "practices" for "experiencing the Trinity"—all simple, straightforward aids, stretching exercises for our spiritual muscles to help us walk more easily and naturally through this new world. There is more to life than monotheism; and that is cause for rejoicing.



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Our Mission (What we do)

Our mission is to help people grow in their faith and trust in God by helping them recognize their God-given talents and to use them to serve God and their neighbor.

Our Vision (Where we are going)

Our vision is to be a community in which God's love is experienced and shared.



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Submissions are welcome!

We invite you to send articles, letters, poems or printable artwork to deborahwaldo18@gmail.com.

The submission deadline for the April/May issue is:

Monday, March 9th

OVERHEARD IN THE SACRISTY



Cartoon by Rev. Jay Sidebotham © Church Pension Group